

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

DTIC FILE COPY

1a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (U)		1b. RESTRICTIVE MARKINGS NA	
2		3. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY OF REPORT Distribution Unlimited	
4		5. MONITORING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S) NA	
6a. NAME OF PERFORMING ORGANIZATION University of Rochester		6b. OFFICE SYMBOL (If applicable) NA	
6c. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) Rochester, NY 14627		7a. NAME OF MONITORING ORGANIZATION Office of Naval Research	
7b. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) 800 N. Quincy Street Arlington, VA 2217-5000		8a. NAME OF FUNDING / SPONSORING ORGANIZATION Office of Naval Research	
8b. OFFICE SYMBOL (If applicable) ONR		9. PROCUREMENT INSTRUMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER N00014-88-K-0179	
8c. ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code) 800 N. Quincy Street Arlington, VA 2217-500		10. SOURCE OF FUNDING NUMBERS	
		PROGRAM ELEMENT NO 61153N	PROJECT NO. RR04106
		TASK NO	WORK UNIT ACCESSION NO
11. TITLE (Include Security Classification) (U) Molecular Basis of RNA Catalysis			
12. PERSONAL AUTHOR(S) Turner, Douglas Hugh			
13a. TYPE OF REPORT Annual		13b. TIME COVERED FROM 3/88 TO 2/89	
		14. DATE OF REPORT (Year, Month, Day) 2/15/89	
		15. PAGE COUNT	
16. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTATION			
17. COSATI CODES		18. SUBJECT TERMS (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)	
FIELD	GROUP	SUB-GROUP	
19. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number) This project involves kinetic studies of RNA splicing reactions catalyzed by the intervening sequence from the precursor rRNA of Tetrahymena thermophila. Fluorescent substrates have been developed that can be used for transient kinetics experiments. The ultimate goal is identification and understanding of each step in the mechanism for splicing. <i>splicing, molecular biology</i>			
20. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY OF ABSTRACT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNCLASSIFIED/UNLIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> SAME AS RPT. <input type="checkbox"/> DTIC USERS		21. ABSTRACT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (U)	
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		22c. OFFICE SYMBOL ONR	

DD FORM 1473, 84 MAR

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE

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ANNUAL REPORT: Contract N00014-88-K-0179
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Douglas H. Turner
CONTRACTOR: University of Rochester
CONTRACT TITLE: Molecular Basis of RNA Catalysis
START DATE: 1 March 1988

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

To determine the mechanism for self-splicing reactions of intervening sequences in RNA.

PROGRESS (Year 1)

Analysis was made of previously obtained kinetic data on the reaction of dinucleoside monophosphates, rCrU, rCdU, dCrU, and dCdT, with the covalently closed circular form of the intervening sequence of the precursor rRNA of *Tetrahymena thermophila*. The results suggest the 2' OH of the 5' nucleotide is involved in a hydrogen bond to the intervening sequence, and the 2' OH of the 3' nucleoside is involved in binding Mg^{2+} .

Three fluorescent substrates for model splicing reactions were synthesized. One, ϵ ACUCU, is an analogue of the 5' exon in the self-splicing reaction of the intervening sequence. The other two GcA and ϵ AG, are expected to mimic the 3' intron-exon junction. Fluorescence titration protocols that require small amounts of RNA were worked out with tRNA as a model system. With the intervening sequence, the fluorescence intensity of ϵ ACUCU is reduced about a factor of two when it binds to the covalently closed form. A fluorescence titration has provided a binding constant for this interaction. Problems have been encountered, however, with decomposition of ϵ ACUCU.

Plasmid DNA has been isolated that is suitable for producing large quantities of a shortened intervening sequence. Transcription with T7 RNA Polymerase gave large amounts of intervening sequence. A column protocol was developed for purification. This eliminates the necessity for purification by denaturing gels. Different methods of renaturing the RNA, however, gave different populations of species on non-denaturing gels.

WORKPLAN (Year 2)

Renaturation protocols will be developed that give a single conformational form of the intervening sequence. Attempts will also be made to fluorescently label the intervening sequence. These RNAs will be used in fluorescence titration experiments to provide binding constants and thermodynamic parameters for the ribozyme-substrate interactions. These parameters will permit design of transient kinetics experiments. Initial experiments will employ stopped-flow methods to determine the time scale of the reaction. Depending on the time scale, either a stopped-flow or a laser temperature-jump apparatus will be built that is suitable for the proposed studies.

INVENTIONS

NONE

89 2 23 010

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

1. Partial support for: N. Sugimoto, M. Tomka, R. Kierzek, P. C. Bevilacqua, & D. H. Turner, "Effects of substrate structure on the kinetics of circle opening reactions of the self-splicing intervening sequence from *Tetrahymena thermophila*: evidence for substrate and Mg^{2+} binding interactions," *Nucleic Acids Res.* 17, 355-371 (1989).
2. This work was presented at the UCLA-Keystone meeting on the Molecular Biology of RNA, and at the Biopolymers Gordon Conference.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Dr. Sean Moran, a postdoctoral fellow, and Mr. Philip Bevilacqua, a first year graduate student, are working on this project. Both are native born American citizens.

AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS

Mr. Bevilacqua is a Sproull Fellow.



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